

# Situation Update #28 - Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

WHO Country Office for Nepal

Wednesday 28 October 2020

## HIGHLIGHTS

- While the growth trend of reported weekly cases is decreasing in other countries of the South East Asia region, both weekly cases and deaths are increasing in Nepal.
- Continued increase in number of cases and deaths in Kathmandu district and valley of Bagmati Province with an average 60% of the cumulative provincial case load added in the last three weeks and contributing to over 50% of current national case load.
- While cases within the Kathmandu valley are spread across all palikas/wards, the highest case density continues to be in the Kathmandu Metropolitan City.
- About 80% of the active cases are in home isolation and just over 362 cases in ICU / ventilator support.
- New laboratories for RT-PCR testing have been added with the total number now at 64 with over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> from the private sector. An average of 15,000 tests are being conducted daily.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

### NEPAL

*(Data as of 28 October 2020, 07:00:00 hours)*

**1,60,399 confirmed cases**

**875 deaths**

**14,00,694 RT-PCR tests (As of 27 October 2020)**

### SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

*(Data as of 10am CEST 25 October 2020)*

**89,69,707 confirmed cases**

**1,40,827 deaths**

### GLOBAL

*(Data as of 10am CEST 25 October 2020)*

**4,33,41,451 confirmed cases**

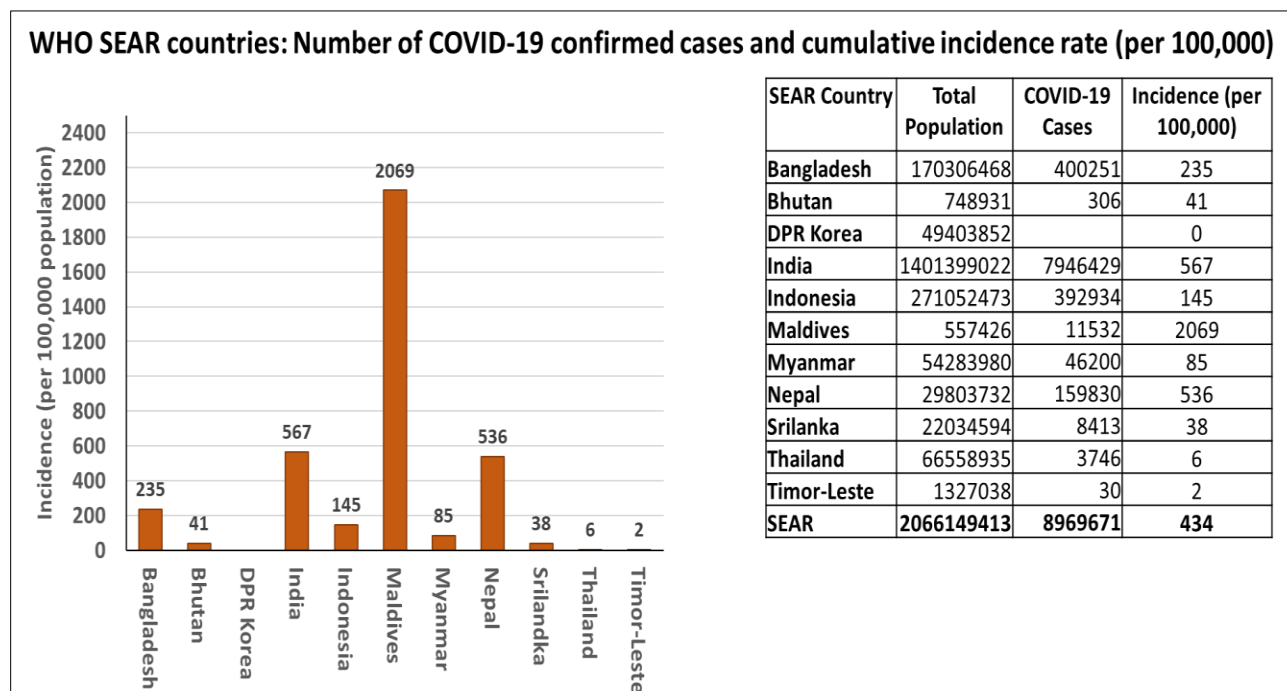
**11,57,509 deaths**

## NEPAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

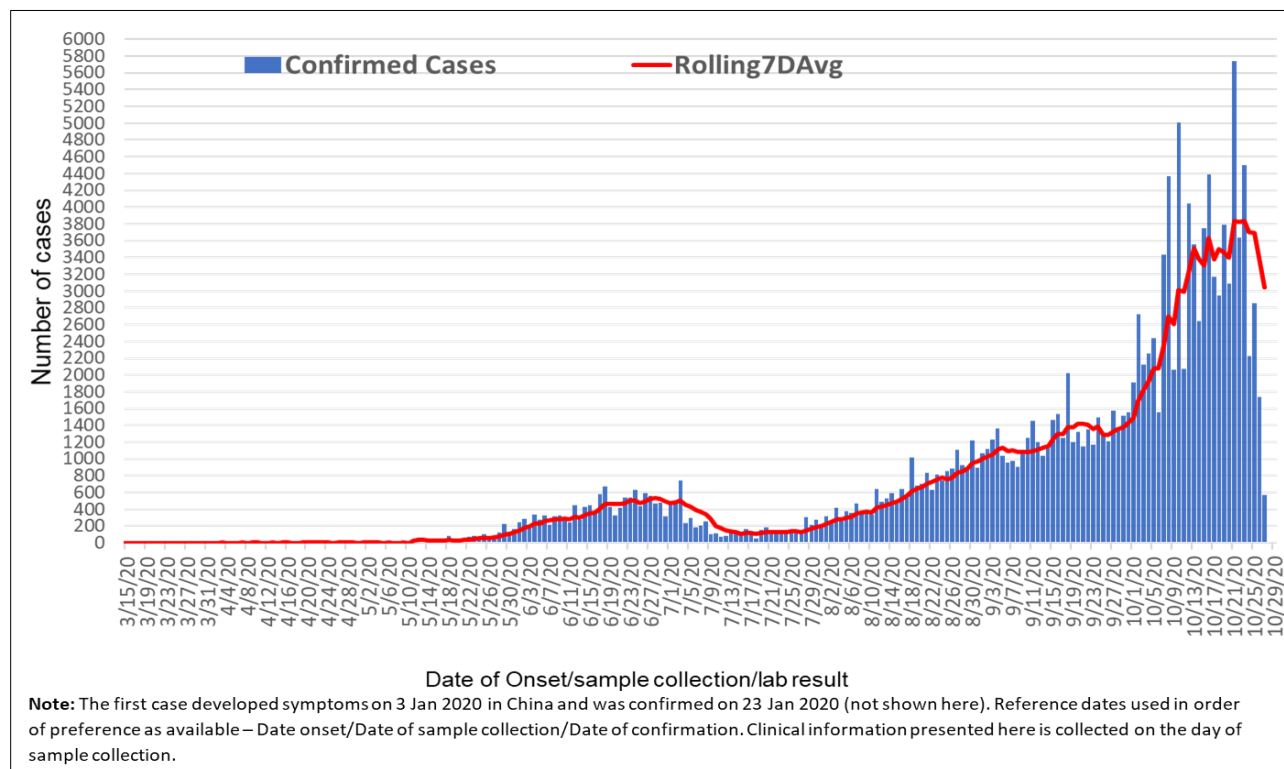
- As of 28 October 2020, T07:00:00 hours (Week no. 44), a total 160399 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in the country through polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). All 7 provinces and 77 districts have reported one or more cases since beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic in Nepal.
- In the last 14 days, 48,598 cases were reported which constitutes 30.3 % of total confirmed cases. All 77 districts reported cases in the last 14 days.
- All 7 provinces in the country are now having transmission as clusters of cases. Bagmati Province is showing significant increase in 7-day rolling average case incidence and a total of 82,827 cases have been reported (51.6% of total cases) so far.
- About 2/3<sup>rd</sup> (119416/160399) of total cases were reported from 3 provinces, namely- Province 2, Bagmati Province and Lumbini Province. The Kathmandu valley area (Kathmandu,

- Bhaktapur, Lalitpur) in Bagmati Province is experiencing high and steeply increasing case load with 44% of national total (70642/160399), and 85.2% of the provincial total (70642/82827).
- Overall, the gender distribution remains skewed towards males, who constitute 68% (109024/160399) of the confirmed cases. Amongst the males, 84.1% (91722/109024) are in the economically productive age group (15-54-years). However, this skewed sex and age distribution is changing in some of the provinces, especially in Bagmati Province where relatively high proportion of females are getting infected (37.6% of total cases in the province). Nationally, in the last week, the female proportion in total cases was constant.
  - As of date, total 875 deaths have been reported. Out of 875 deaths, 613 (70 %) were males and 262 (30%) were females. Amongst the deaths, 631 persons (72.1%) had at least one or more known co-morbid conditions. All deaths occurred in the country between weeks 20 and 44. Although the overall case fatality ratio (CFR) across all ages is less than 1 per cent, it progressively increases with age beyond 65 years of age, ranging from 3.8% to 10.2%.
  - No samples were received for Influenza from **National Influenza Surveillance in NPHL** in EPID-week 43 (19<sup>th</sup> Oct – 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2020). From beginning of January until 25th Oct 2020, **736** samples have been tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2. 20 influenza negative samples have been tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and included in COVID-19 database samples that fit the case definition of SARI. ILI/SARI data and Influenza laboratory results are updated in the WHO FLUID and FLUNET platforms.

**Figure 1: WHO SEAR countries: Number of COVID-19 confirmed cases (data as of 25 October 2020 from #Global Weekly Epidemiological Update 11) and cumulative incidence rate (per 100,000)**



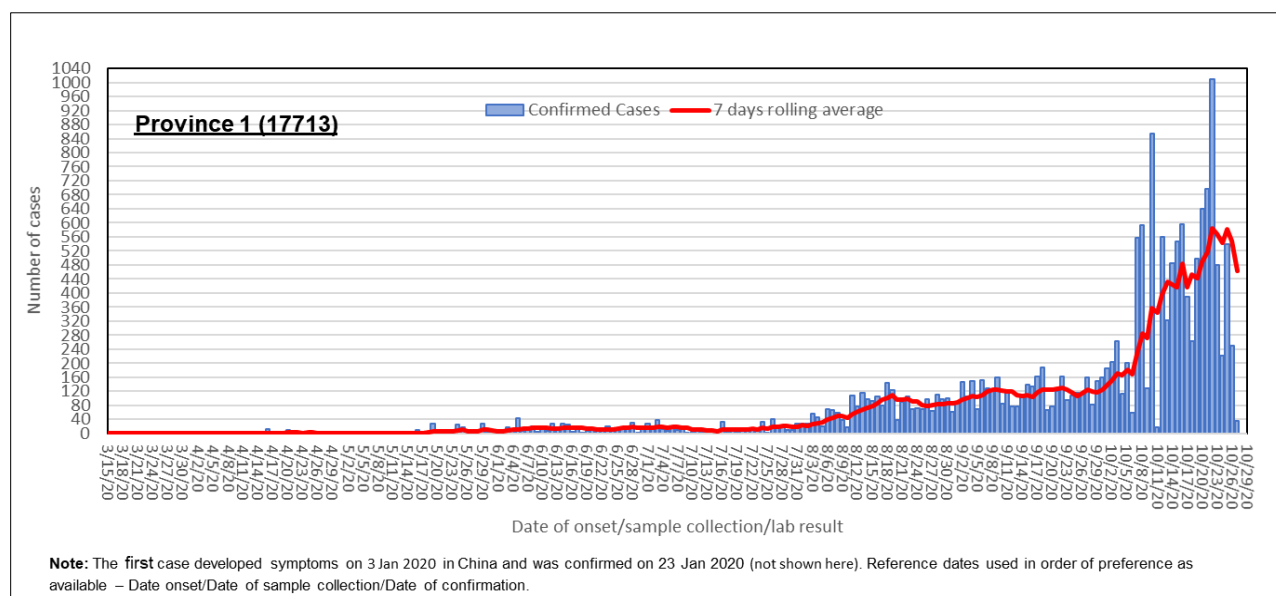
**Figure 2 A: Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases and average number of COVID-19 cases over the last seven days, by date of onset/sample/confirmation (N = 160399)** (Data updated on 28 October 2020 T07:00:00)

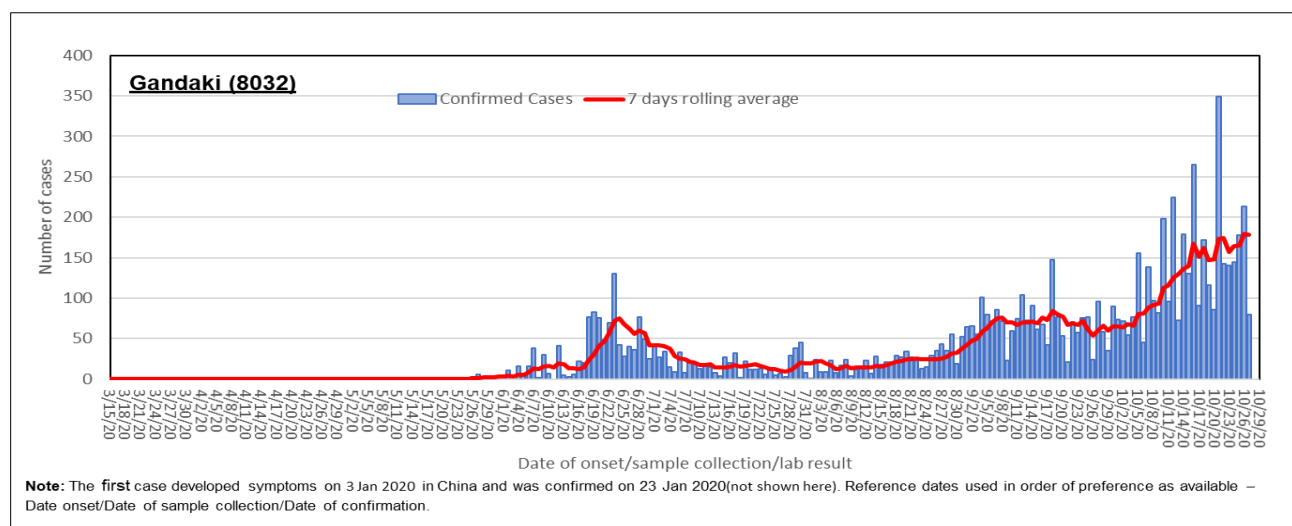
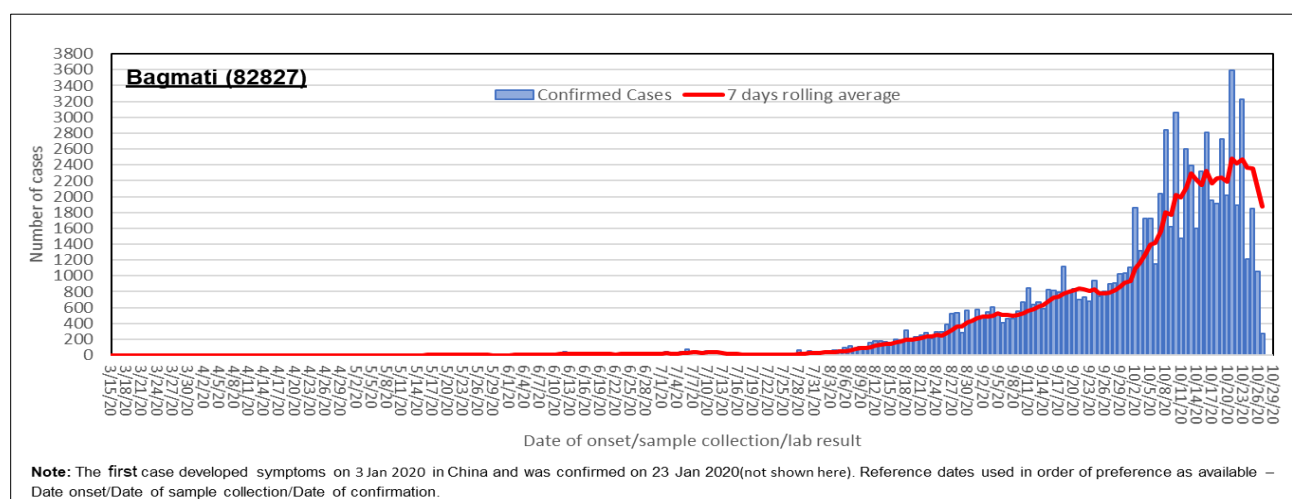
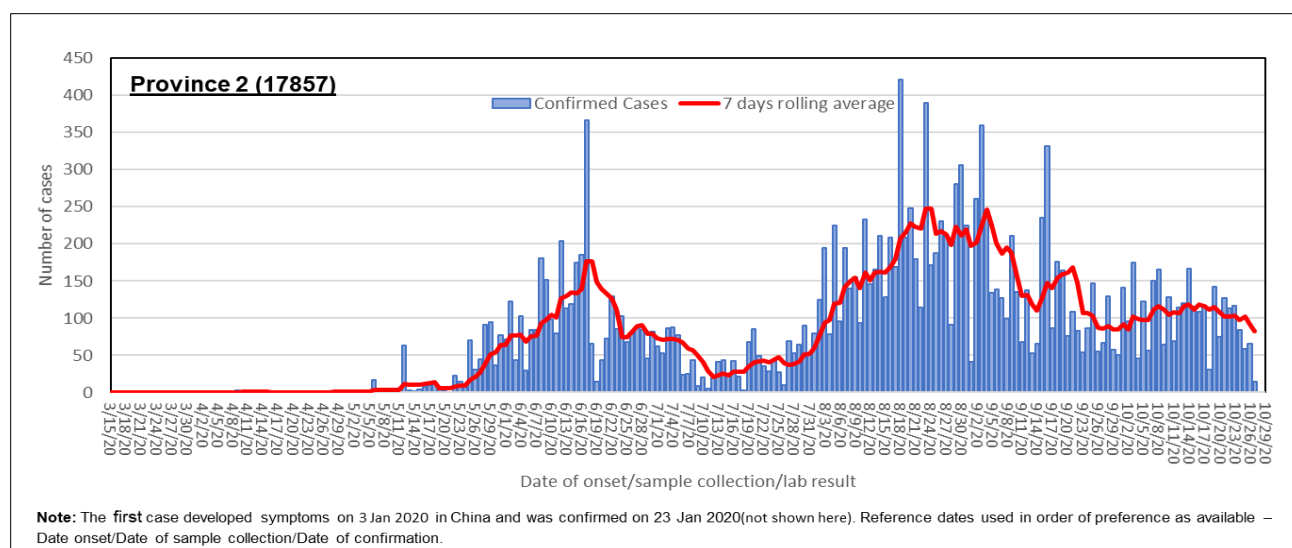


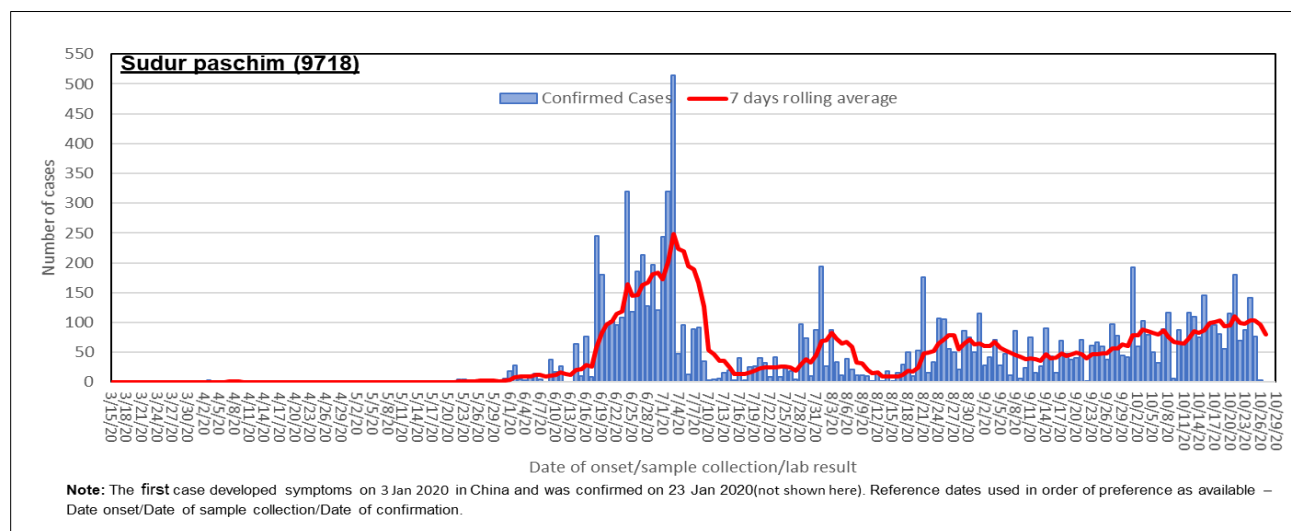
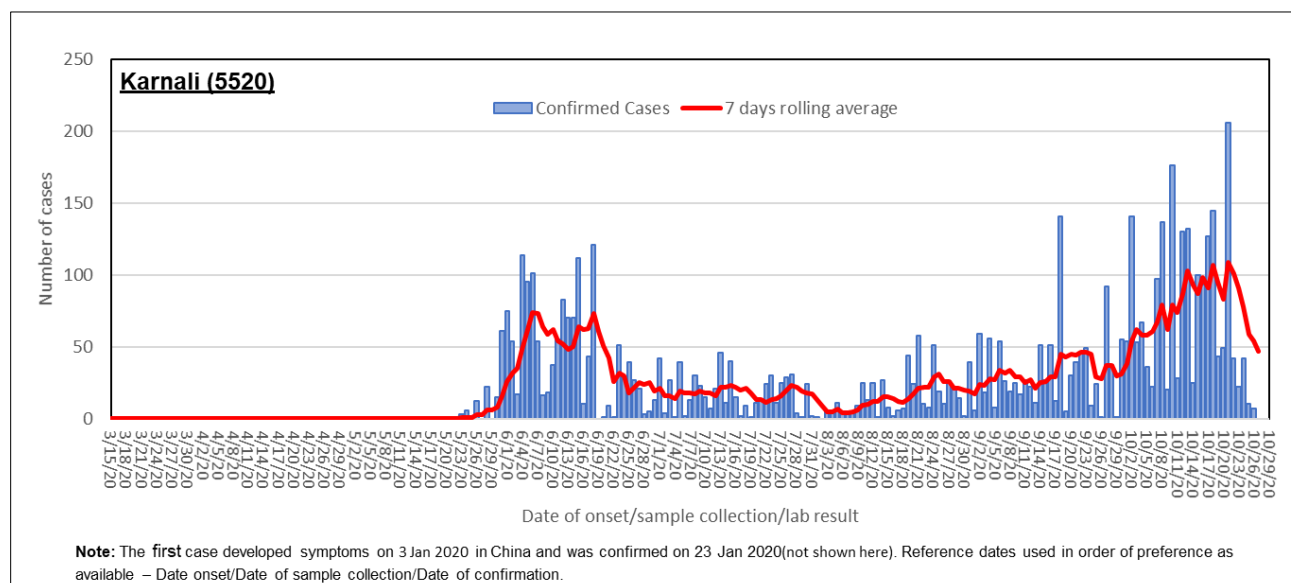
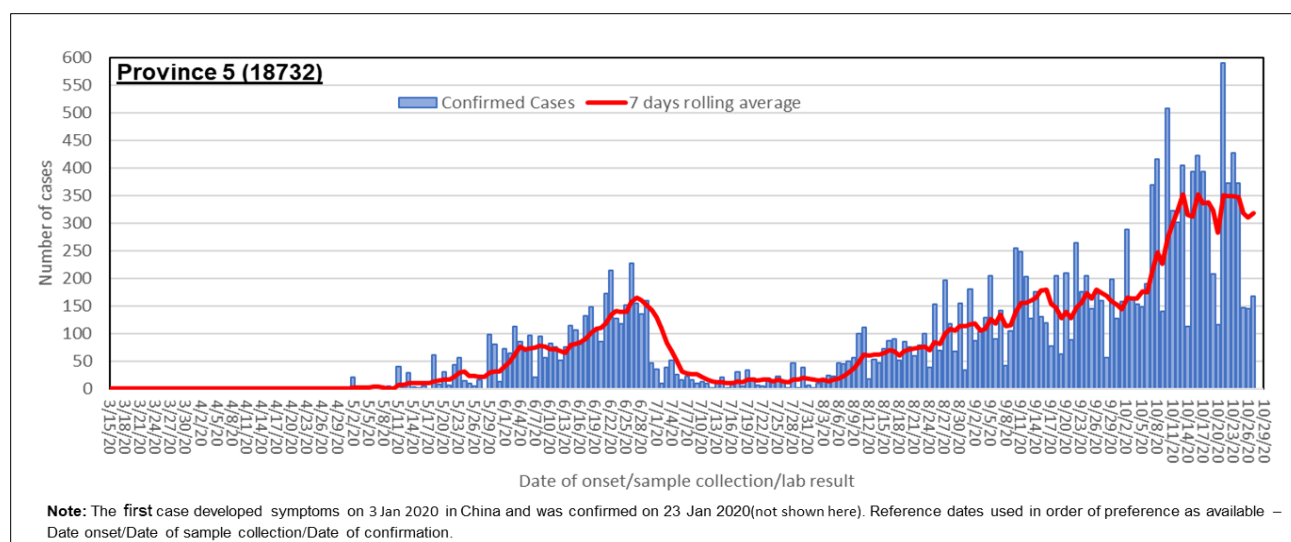
**Figure 2B: Lab confirmed COVID-19 cases and a 7-day rolling average of cases by date of onset/sample/confirmation by Provinces** (Data updated on 28 October 2020 T07:00:00)

**Note for all the Provinces (Figure 2 B):**

- Y-axis scale varies between Provinces.

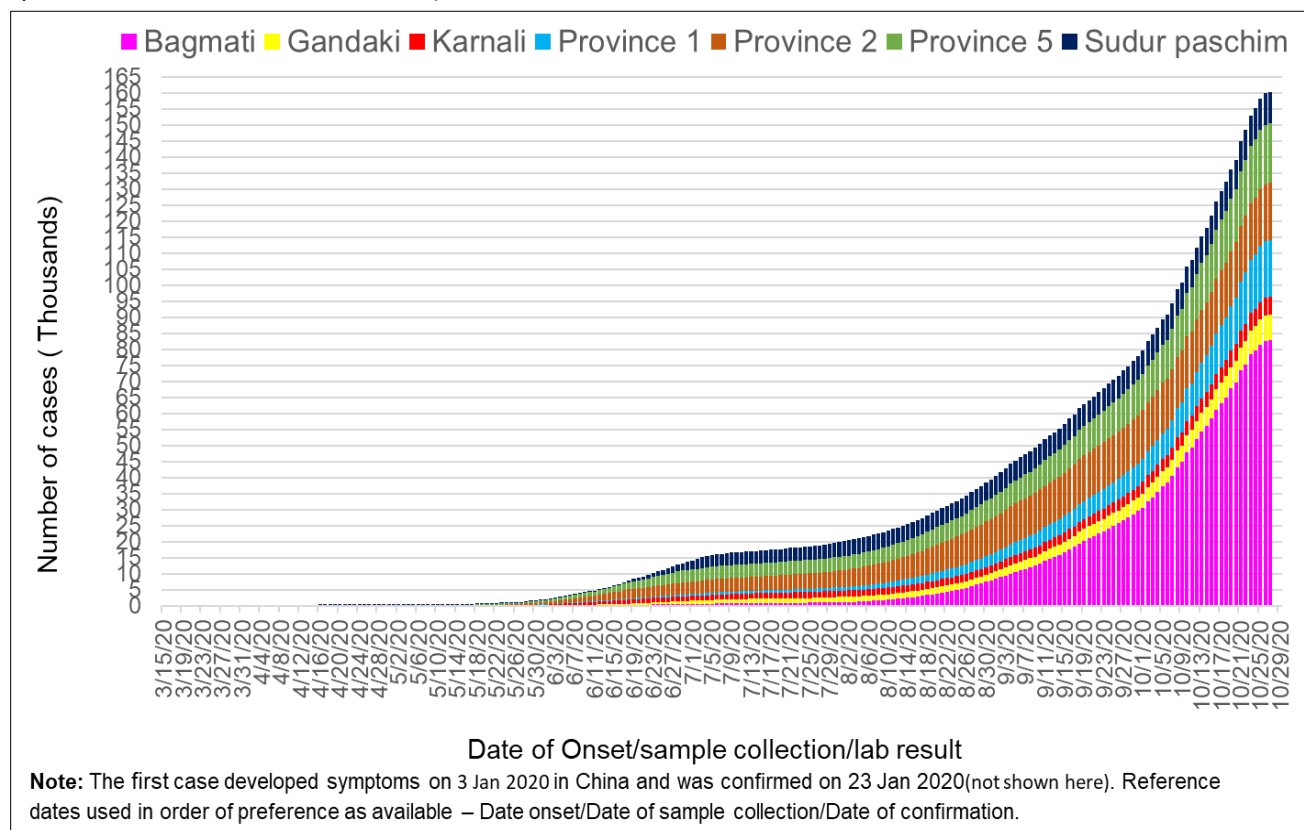




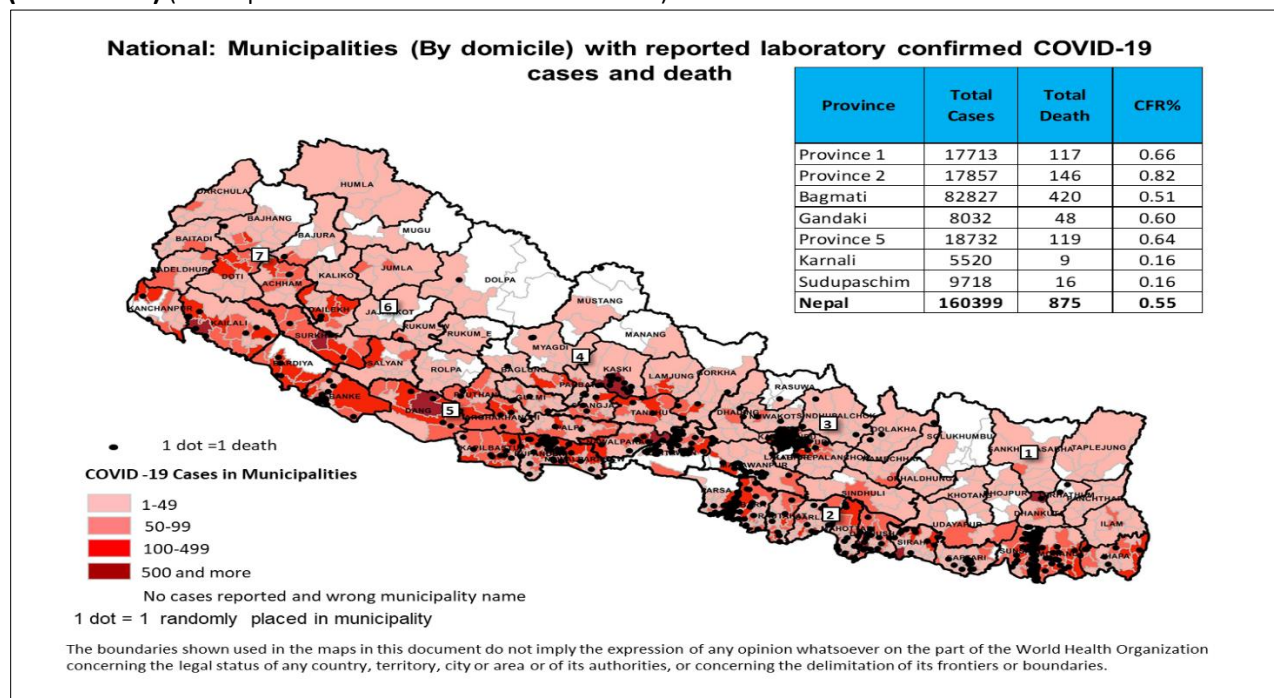




**Figure 2C: Cumulative case count of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 by province (N = 160399)** (Data updated on 28 October 2020 T07:00:00)



**Figure 3: Municipalities (By domicile) with reported laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths (N = 160399)** (Data updated on 28 October 2020 T07:00:00)



**Table 1: Summary of laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths and transmission by provinces.**

**(N = 160399)** (Data updated on 28 October 2020 T07:00:00)

Transmission classification based on [WHO definitions](#)

Reporting Province	Total confirmed cumulative cases	% of the total confirmed cumulative cases	Total cumulative deaths	Transmission classification*	Districts affected (total districts)	Date of most recent case <sup>#</sup>
Province 1	17713	11.0	117	Cluster of cases	14 (14)	27 October 2020
Province 2	17857	11.1	146	Cluster of cases	8 (8)	27 October 2020
Bagmati	82827	51.6	420	Cluster of cases	13 (13)	27 October 2020
Gandaki	8032	5.0	48	Cluster of cases	11 (11)	27 October 2020
Province 5	18732	11.7	119	Cluster of cases	12 (12)	27 October 2020
Karnali	5520	3.4	9	Cluster of cases	10 (10)	27 October 2020
Sudurpaschhim	9718	6.1	16	Cluster of cases	9 (9)	27 October 2020
<b>National Total</b>	<b>160399</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>Cluster of cases</b>	<b>77 (77)</b>	<b>27 October 2020</b>

<sup>#</sup> Date of the last case is the date of onset or date of sample collection or date of lab report based on information available.

\* Case classification is based on [WHO transmission classification](#)

**No cases** - provinces with no cases; **Sporadic cases**- provinces with one or more cases, imported or locally detected<sup>#</sup>

**Cluster of cases** - provinces experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and by common exposures

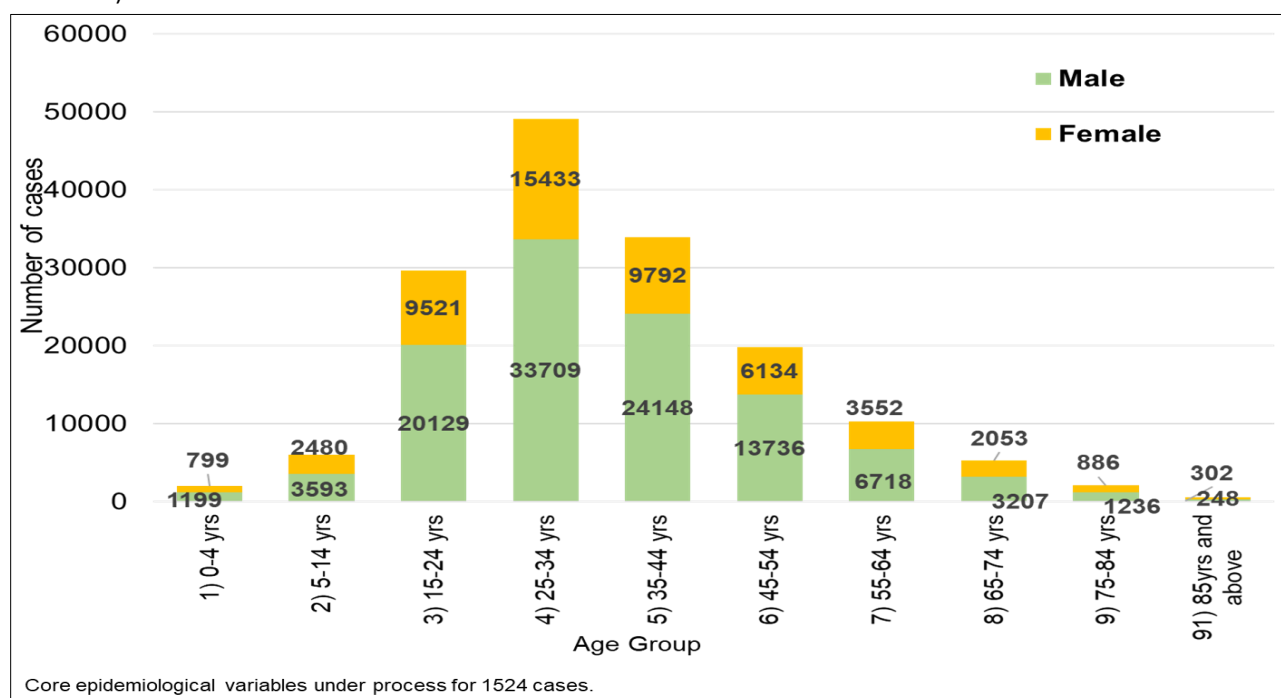
**Community transmission**- experiencing larger outbreaks of local transmission defined through an assessment of factors including, but not limited to: - Large numbers of cases not linkable to transmission chains

- Large numbers of cases from sentinel lab surveillance

- Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area

**Figure 4: Distribution of COVID-19 cases by age and sex (N = 158875)** (Data updated on 28 October 2020

T07:00:00)



**Table 2: Age Specific Case Fatality Ratio and Co-morbidity of Deaths\* in COVID-19 confirmed cases (N = 160399)** (Data updated on 28 October 2020 T07:00:00)

Age Group	Total confirmed cases	Death (male)	Death (female)	Deaths with any known comorbid condition	Age specific case fatality ratio (%)
0-4 yrs	1998	2	3	3	0.25
5-14 yrs	6073	2	1	3	0.05
15-24 yrs	29650	10	12	13	0.07
25-34 yrs	49142	34	15	35	0.1
35-44 yrs	33940	66	28	53	0.28
45-54 yrs	19870	97	38	92	0.68
55-64 yrs	10270	126	49	129	1.7
65-74 yrs	5260	140	60	162	3.8
75-84 yrs	2122	94	40	100	6.31
85+ yrs	550	40	16	39	10.18
Unknown	1524	2	0	2	0.13
<b>National</b>	<b>160399</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>0.55</b>

$$\text{Case Fatality ratio (CFR, in\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of deaths from disease}}{\text{Number of confirmed cases of disease}} \times 100$$

COVID-19 positive lab result is temporally associated with death; causal association under investigation.

## PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

### What are the Government of Nepal (GoN) & the Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP) doing?

- The MoHP led “Daily National Press Briefing on COVID-19 “to be held biweekly- *on Sunday and Wednesday* from 28 October, Wednesday onwards.
- In line with the new Rapid Action Plan (Oct 2020-Feb 2021) for COVID-19 response of the MoHP, the Management Division of the Department of Health Services is estimating the logistics requirements (ICU beds, oxygen plants, oxygen cylinders, isolation beds, WASH and HCWM strengthening, patient monitors, ventilators, pulse oximeter, lab kits, PPE items, medicines, ICU consumables, etc.) to be procured based on projected number of new cases.
- High level political leaders, bureaucrats, health authorities and societal opinion leaders are engaged in providing risk communication messages to the public during the festive occasion of Dashain and Tihar to ensure compliance to individual and collective public health measures for COVID-19.
- A total of **14,00,694** RT-PCR tests performed nationwide by **64** designated COVID-19 labs functional across the nation (*as of 27 Oct 2020*). The latest addition to the designated COVID-19 labs this week is as listed below;
  - Trisuli Hospital, Nuwakot, Bagmati Province
  - Lifecare Lab, Pokhara, Gandaki Province



## What is the WHO Country Office for Nepal doing?

- Supported EDCCD in completing the field work for the national sero-surveillance study and NPHL with the sample tracking and reception. A total of **2,677** (85% of the total sample size) sera samples has been received at NPHL, logged in a google sheet and stored at -70° C for testing as soon as the ELISA kits are received from WHO-HQ.
  - WHO Nepal has provided technical assistance through WHO consultants for:
    - Validation, report preparation and dissemination of results of a newly established designated COVID-19 laboratory. **Palpa Hospital Laboratory** underwent re-validation this week and passed the validation process. The laboratory shared their 5 positive samples which were validated at NPHL.
    - Proficiency Testing (PT) panels retesting strategy: set of samples will be shared by NPHL with designated COVID-19 testing laboratories for retesting at the designated labs and sharing of test results with NPHL for verification. This will be done every 3 months and will substitute the current National Quality Assurance Program (NQAS).
    - Technical support to NPHL in drafting the antigen kit validation protocol. The draft has been shared with NPHL for a final review.
  - WHO provided technical support to the Curative Services Department (CSD) for an introduction to a new system, “Hospital profile software system” through virtual meeting on 22 October 2020. The meeting was attended by medical directors and laboratory personnel as well medical focal persons from various Provinces and MoHP with a total of 20 participants.
  - WHO supported the MoHP to perform rapid IPC assessments of two government buildings:
    - Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCCD) building and
    - The Director General (DGs) office, that also houses the Health Insurance Offices.
- The assessment was performed jointly by officials from EDCCD and WHO-Nepal. The assessment findings and recommendations have already been shared in a detailed report.
- WHO-Nepal has also provided technical support to the National Health Training Center (NHTC) for 3 days (20-22 Oct 2020) training program on “Infection prevention and control (IPC) & Critical Care Training” to 30 participants from Hetauda and Bharatpur hospitals.



Critical Care Training at Bharatpur Hospital, Chitwan District. Photo Credit: WHO Nepal/S. Adhikari

- The concept note to scale up disability inclusion and rehabilitation initiatives in Gandaki and Sudurpaschim province has been submitted to Leprosy Control and Disability Management Section (LCDMS) for their comments. Following approval, it will be implemented by National Federation of Disabled Nepal (NFDN) from November 15 for a period of 6 months.
- WHO Nepal Operation, Support and Logistic Team has assessed four sites for the establishment of health desks (entry & exit) at Points of Entry as follows:
  - In Province 1, Morang District
  - In Province 2, Siraha, Rautahat and Parsa Districts

Based on the assessment of the sites, a design layout has been submitted to the local health authorities in the mentioned districts for their feedback and approval.

WHO Nepal plans to build 2 Point of Entry sites along the Nepalese/Indian border out of the above-mentioned sites. The sites for building POE has not yet been finalized.

WHO Nepal is working with United Nations Operation Project Services (UNOPS) for the costing of the POE in two different sites. The evaluation cost is being done by UNOPS as per the design layout WHO has given to UNOPS.
- WHO Media monitoring output shared every day with **MoHP spokesperson, HEOC officials, as well as EDPs and other partners**
- On 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, WHO Nepal highlighted the importance of physical activity and exercise during COVID-19, and combatting non-communicable disease for a healthier future. Home bodyweight exercises for people of all ages were highlighted, with a message from the WHO Representative to Nepal. The video can be seen [here](#).
- The following documents were translated:

SN	TRANSLATION DOCUMENT	Type
1	Public Health Regulation 2077	Document
2	Home Isolation Guidance for confirmed COVID-19 cases	Guidance
3	Solidarity Therapeutics Trial produces conclusive evidence on the effectiveness of repurposed drugs for COVID-19 in record time	Summary
4	Handbook for public health capacity-building at ground crossings and cross-border collaboration	Summary
5	Policy Brief: COVID-19 and Universal Health Coverage- October 2020	Summary
6	Weekly Evidence Brief_23 October 2020	Document

- Science in 5 videos translated, dubbed, captioned, and published:
  - Episode 6 in Maithili (October 21): [Link](#)
  - Episode 7 in Maithili (October 23): [Link](#)
  - Episode 3 in Nepali (October 24): [Link](#)

- Festival messages as Audio capsules released by Ministry of Health and Population together with WHO Country Office for Nepal- in Nepali language.

SN	TITLE (NEPALI)	TITLE (ENGLISH)	URL	LANGUAGE
1	कोरोना महामारीका बेला चाडबाडहरु सुरक्षित तरीकाले मनाउने उपायहरु ।	The safe ways of celebrating our festivals during the time of COVID-19 pandemic	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
2	कोरोना महामारीका बेला परिवारसँग चाडपर्व मनाउँदा के कस्ता सुरक्षा उपायहरु अपनाउने ?	What are the health and safety measures that should be taken while celebrating the festival with family during the COVID-19 pandemic?	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
3	किनमेल गर्दा, कोरोना संक्रमणबाट बच्न के के कुरामा सावधानी अपनाउनुपर्छ ?	What are the different precautions that can be taken to avoid COVID-19 while buying and selling things?)	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
4	चाडबाडका बेला सुरक्षित यात्राका लागि निर्देशिका ।	Travel safety guidelines for the public during festivals.)	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
5	कोरोना महामारीको समयमा चाडपर्व मनाउँदा अनावश्यक यात्रा नगरौं ।	Let's avoid unnecessary travels to celebrate the festival during COVID-19.)	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
6	कोरोना महामारीका बेला साबुनपानीले हात धुनु र एस.एम.एस को पालना गर्न किन महत्वपूर्ण छ ?	Why is it important to wash our hands with soap and water and follow SMS during the COVID-19 pandemic.)	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
7	बारम्बार प्रयोगमा आउने मोबाईल फोन कसरी सफा गर्ने वा किटाणुरहित तुल्याउने ?	How do we clean or disinfect phones that are used frequently?)	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
8	कोरोना महामारीका बेला यात्रा गर्दा भौतिक दुरी कायम गरौं ।	English. Maintain physical distance while traveling during the COVID-19 pandemic.)	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
9	जनस्वास्थ्यका मापदण्डहरु अपनाउँदै हामी कसरी चाडबाडहरु मनाउन सक्छौं ?	How can we celebrate our festivals following the public health standards during COVID-19 pandemic?	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali
10	कोरोना महामारीकाबेला सुरक्षित भइ चाडपर्व मनाउने सन्दर्भमा एक लोक गायिकाको सन्देश ।	A message from a folk singer on celebrating festivals safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.)	<a href="#">Link</a>	Nepali

- Ongoing COVID-19 messages for video content production in line with Strategic communication plan to support MoHP from political leaders and eminent social influencers for preventive measures for celebration of upcoming National festivals (Dashain, Tihar and Chhath etc.).
- WHO Nepal has submitted signed Performa Invoice to the Headquarter in Geneva for the procurement of antigen test Kit. The shipment date of antigen kit test is still not known.

## What are the health cluster partners doing?

- Cluster coordination meeting for health sector response are ongoing at the Federal and Provincial levels for coherent actions at all levels.
- Health Cluster partners including sub-clusters are providing response support to continue the COVID-19 & Non-COVID-19 essential health services across the country.
- Partners provided support in online/virtual training/orientation on
  - Health Care Waste Management and WASH for Sukraraj Tropical Hospital, Mahakali Hospital, Mechi Hospital and Sagarmatha Hospital
  - Case investigation, contact tracing, case management and IPC.
- Partners provided support to MOHP on:
  - the development of “COVID-19 Designated Hospital Reporting App” within HMIS for COVID-19 related data collection from designated hospitals and Isolation Centers.
  - the development of flyers, infographics, radio jingles and animated videos on SRH in the context of COVID-19; translated messages in five local languages; disseminated the message using social media, radios and 302 FM radios, plus printing SRH-related IEC materials for people in quarantine
  - rapid assessment of basic services continuity (RH/FP), mobilizing Visiting Service Providers (VSPs) by ensuring adequate personal and infection prevention measures in 13 districts to ensure continuous access of short term and long-term reversible contraceptives (SARC and LARC) family planning services
  - continuation of SRH/FP Helpline Services through Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN) and Midwifery Society of Nepal (MIDSON)
  - the establishment and management of local level contact tracing, case investigation, and rapid response teams.

## WHO's STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE- [link here](#) RECOMMENDATION AND ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

- [Protect yourself](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Travel advice](#)
- [EPI-WIN](#): tailored information for individuals, organizations and communities

## USEFUL LINKS

- MoHP COVID-19 official portal is available [here](#).
- Nepal COVID-19 regular updates and resources are available [here](#)
- For COVID-19 updates from the WHO South-East Asia Region Office, please visit [here](#).
- For information regarding coronavirus disease from WHO, please visit [here](#)
- Please visit this [site](#) for all technical guidance from WHO.
- Online courses on COVID-19 from WHO can be found [here](#)
- Global coronavirus disease situation dashboard can be found [here](#)
- Visit the WHO Nepal [Facebook page](#) and webpage on COVID-19 [here](#)

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